

Application No.: 10/044,441

Case No.: 57287US002

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On pages 3-4, please replace the paragraph that starts on page 3, line 25 with the phrase "The systems and methods..." and ends on page 4, line 6 with the word "pack" with the following amended paragraph:

The systems and methods of the invention generally provide the security of accurately assessing sterilizing conditions directly within a wrapped ~~container~~ container or pack, the convenience of ascertaining that assessment before the pack reaches the surgical suite, and low cost to the medical consumer. Such advantages are accomplished by using an electronic reader adapted for inclusion within packs of goods to be sterilized and having chemical resistance capable of withstanding sterilizing conditions multiple times and through multiple uses. The reader will generally include a place to receive a disposable sterilization sensor that is capable of undergoing a visible change upon exposure to sterilizing conditions. In this way, the medical consumer is only charged directly for the inexpensive sterilization sensor, while the cost of the more expensive reader can be divided among many patients. The reader can also include a mechanism so that its assessment of the sterilization sensor can be discovered without opening the sterilized pack.